how much fund has been allocated for the year 2007-2008 to Urdu channel of Doordarshan which has been made a 24 hour channel;

how many Urdu knowing persons have been given contract or permanent jobs in this channel;

what steps have been taken to popularize the channel; and

why it is not aired in Free to Air channels even in areas where Hindustani (Urdu) is very popular?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) An amount of Rs. 15.00 Crore has been allocated for Urdu channel for the year 2007-2008.

21 Urdu knowing persons have been given contract jobs in this channel.

Effective packaging, outsourcing quality software from top producers from the field of production, film-making, culture, literature and media are some of the steps taken.

DD Urdu is already available in Doordarshan's free to air DTH service. In addition to that Prasar Bharat! has notified DD Urdu channel for mandatory carriage by the Cable Operators/Multi System Operators (MSOs) in all States and Union Territories.

Fleecing of consumers by cable operators

2124. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether it has come to the notice of the Government that exorbitant price is charged by cable operators from consumers and also poor quality of beaming;

if so, whether any steps are being taken by the Government to contain fleecing of consumers by cable operators;

whether it is a fact that TRAI has made some recommendations with regard to non-CAS areas;

if so, the details thereof; and

what impact the recommendations are going to have on consumers in Non-CAS areas?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) According to a Market survey commissioned by Telecom Regulator}/ Authority of India (TRAI) for 22 cities across the country, the average monthly cable charges range from Rs. 149/- to 322/-.

(b) to (e) As per TRAI Act, 1997 the power to fix rates for provisioning of broadcasting services rests with TRAI. TRAI has issued an amendment to Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Second) Tariff Order, 2004 (6 of 2004) on 04.10.2007 in which a ceiling on monthly charges has been prescribed based on the number of pay channels for different parts of country. The tariff order for Non-CAS areas has come into force on 01.12.2007. A tabular statement showing the ceilings is enclosed. *(See* below). The detailed text of the tariff order is available on TRAI website *www.trai.gov.in*. The ceilings prescribed in the tariff amendment order will help in protecting the interests of the cable TV subscribers in Non-CAS areas of the country.

Statement

Ceiling on charges payable by a subscriber to the cable operator or multi system operator in Non-CAS areas

Serial number	Number of pay channels and Free to Air channels to be transmitted or re-transmitted through the cable television network	Maximum amount of charges payable by a subscriber per month for first television connection (exclusive of all taxes) for Pay channels and Free to Air channels mentioned under column (2)		
(1)	(2)	(3)		
	Pay channels	Free to Air channels 2(b)	A-l and A Class cities 3(a)	B-l and B-2 Class cities 3(b)	Other areas
1.	No pay channel	minimum 30 Free to Air channels	Not exceeding Rs. 77/- only	Not exceeding Rs. 77/- only	Not exceeding Rs. 77/- only
2.	Upto 20 pay channels	minimum 30 Free to Air channels	Not exceeding Rs. 160/- only	Not exceeding Rs. 140/-only	Not exceeding Rs. 130/- only
3.	More than 20 and upto 30 pay channels	minimum 30 Free to Air Channels	Not exceeding Rs. 200/- only	Not exceeding Rs. 170/-only	Not exceeding Rs. 160/- only
4	More than 30 and upto 45 pay channels	minimum 30 Free to Air channels	Not exceeding Rs. 235/- only	Not exceeding Rs. 200/- only	Not exceeding Rs. 185/-only
5.	More than 45 pay channels	minimum 30 Free to Air channels	Not exceeding Rs. 260/- only	Not exceeding Rs. 220/- only	Not exceeding Rs. 200/- only

Note 1. The maximum amount of charges payable by a subscriber, for his second and subsequent television connections at his same premises, shall be such as may be mutually agreed upon between such subscriber and the cable operator or multi system operator, as the case may be.

Note 2. It shall be mandatory for all cable television networks to transmit or retransmit minimum of thirty free to air channels.

Note 3. In case the services are provided for a part of the month in a particular case, the ceiling indicated in Column 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c) shall be determined on a pro-rata basis for the period of service provided during that month.

Note 4. Classification of cities referred to under column 3(a) and 3(b) shall be the same classification as mentioned in the orders of the Government of India, Ministry of Finance issued, from time to time, for the purpose of determining the entitlement of house rent allowance of Central Government Employees as per the O.M. No. 2(2l)/E.Il(B)/2004 dated IB. 11.2004 issued by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) or such other classification as may be specified by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance from time to time for the entitlement of the house rent allowance.

Land to Press Club of India

2125. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Press Club of India was given land by Government of India;

if so, the details thereof;

whether it is also a fact that the Central Government and various State Government extend financial help at various levels to the Press Club of India; and

if so, the details of financial grants/help given by various State Governments and the Central Government, year-wise to Press Club of India?